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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/639,098	08/16/2000	Kenichi Haruki	000993	3148
38834	7590	07/01/2004	EXAMINER	
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP 1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20036			HESSELTINE, RYAN J	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2623	12	
DATE MAILED: 07/01/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/639,098	HARUKI ET AL.
	Examiner Ryan J Hesseltine	Art Unit 2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 April 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 8-10 and 13-34 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17-27 and 31-34 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 8-10, 13-16 and 28-30 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 07 April 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Newly submitted claim 34 is directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: claim 34 belongs in a non-elected group of invention corresponding to Group II, claims 20-23 and 31-33, drawn to an information-processing device (see restriction mailed September 4, 2003). In this case, claim 34 is directed to a computer system comprising an information-processing device and an extension device (the extension device being the invention elected without traverse), therefore it encompasses a broader scope of coverage.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claim 34 is withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

2. This application contains claims 17-27 and 31-34 drawn to an invention nonelected without traverse in the reply filed on October 6, 2003. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

Drawings

3. The drawings were received on April 7, 2004. These drawings are acceptable.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 8 and 28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

5. The rejections of claims 1-7, 11, and 12 are rendered moot by applicant's cancellation of those claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 8-10, 13-16, and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klatt (DE 29821644, previously cited, relying on USPN 6,592,031 as English language equivalent) in view of Matsuzaki et al. (USPN 5,867,218, previously cited, "Matsuzaki").

8. Regarding claims 8 and 28, Klatt discloses an extension device (PC card 1 according to PCMCIA standard type II) having such a configuration as to be mounted in a container portion of an information processing device (computer such as notebook or electronic personal organizer; column 4, line 12-17), comprising: an identification-information-acquisition (fingerprint-reading) unit (sensor 5) which receives identification (fingerprint) information (biometric data, for example, fingerprints or retina); and a carrier unit (slide 4) which carries said identification-information-acquisition (fingerprint-reading) unit from a position where said identification-information-acquisition (fingerprint-reading) unit is encased in the container portion (reciprocated) to a position where said identification-information-acquisition (fingerprint-reading) unit is situated outside the container portion (extended) so as to permit entry of identification (fingerprint) information (Figure 1; column 4, line 12-23 and 40-50).

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9. Klatt discloses that said identification-information-acquisition (fingerprint-reading) unit is connectable to the information processing device through a cable (13, Figure 2b; column 4, line 42-44) but does not disclose that said identification-information-acquisition (fingerprint-reading) unit is detachable from said carrier unit and connectable to the information processing device through a cable when said identification-information-acquisition (fingerprint-reading) unit is detached from said carrier unit. Matsuzaki discloses an imaging apparatus having box-like and card-like parts including a camera unit 11 that is detachably accommodated in the box-like part wherein the camera is connected via a cable 22 and a connector 23 (Figure 4; column 5, line 40-48). Matsuzaki does not disclose that the camera unit 11 is a fingerprint sensor, but stand-alone fingerprint sensors (that is, a fingerprint sensor connected to a computer through a cable in a similar manner as a mouse or keyboard) are extremely well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to connect the identification-information-acquisition (fingerprint-reading) unit to the information processing device when it is detached from said carrier unit as taught by Matsuzaki in order to permit hand-held imaging such as directing the camera toward an object (column 5, line 49-55) or to permit the identification-information-acquisition (fingerprint-reading) unit to be used on a desk or table top to allow the user easier access and less chance of breaking the carrier off the extension device when it is extended.

10. Regarding claim 9, Klatt discloses that said identification-information-acquisition unit includes a biological-information-acquisition unit (sensor 5) for acquiring biological (biometric) information (column 4, line 18-24).

11. Regarding claim 10, Klatt discloses that said biological information includes one of fingerprints, retinal patterns, voice, handwritings, and facial features (column 4, line 18-24).
12. Regarding claims 13 and 14, neither Klatt nor Matsuzaki explicitly disclose that said identification-information-acquisition unit includes: a left-hand-side connector, a right-hand-side connector, or a front-side connector which are to be connected to said extension device when said extension device is mounted in a left-hand side, a right-hand side, and a front-side of the information processing device, respectively. The examiner takes Official Notice that providing connectors on multiple sides of an information-processing device is well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide left-hand, right-hand, and front connectors to be connected to an extension device in order to allow extension devices to be connected on multiple sides of the information processing device.
13. Regarding claim 15, Klatt discloses that said cable 13 has a connector (inherent) provided at a tip thereof, and said identification-information-acquisition unit further being connectable to a connector (inherent) of the extension device (PC card 1) via said cable when said identification-information-acquisition unit is attached to said carrier unit 4 (Figure 2b; column 4, line 40-44).
14. Regarding claim 16, Klatt discloses an operation unit (electrical drive 12) which prompts said carrier unit (slide 4) to engage in first motion to situate said identification-information-acquisition unit at a position that is barely sufficient for identification information to be entered in said identification-information-acquisition unit (retracted), and prompts said carrier unit to engage in second motion to expose an entirety of said identification-information-acquisition unit outside the container portion (extended; column 4, line 40-50).

15. Regarding claim 29, Klatt discloses that the extension device (PC card) is detachably mounted in the container portion (notebook computer or electronic organizer) that is configured to receive therein any one of a plurality of different types of extension devices (column 1, line 14-25).

16. Regarding claim 30, Klatt discloses that the information-processing device is a portable-type information processing device (notebook computer or electronic organizer), said container unit being provided with said portable-type information processing device (column 1, line 43-53).

Conclusion

17. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. USPN 5,559,504 to Itsumi et al. discloses an identification device such as an IC card including a surface shape sensor wherein a fingerprint data input unit may be externally connected to a computer through a cable. USPN 5,978,495 to Thomopoulos et al. discloses a method an apparatus for accurate determination of the identity of human beings wherein a fingerprint image is captured by a computer connected to a scanner via a set of cables. JP 2000-293688 to Niizaki et al. discloses a fingerprint collating device including turning a fingerprint when the insertion direction of a PC card is from the left to the right. JP 2001-069391 to Kanbe et al. discloses an enlargement unit, portable information processor and image pickup device including a detachably connected CCD camera.

18. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan J Hesseltine whose telephone number is 703-306-4069. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amelia Au can be reached on 703-308-6604. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ryan J. Hesseltine
June 15, 2004

JINGGE WU
PRIMARY EXAMINER